

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 022600

FOR ROGERS AND JORDEN FROM BUNKER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: U.S.-PANAMA TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: PANAMANIAN
REVELATION OF TREATY NEGOTIATION DETAILS

1. FOREIGN MINISTER OZORES' COMMENTS TO THE PRESS IN
BUENOS AIRES JANUARY 28 REPRESENT A SENIOR PANAMANIAN OFFI-
CIAL PUBLICLY VIOLATING THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE DETAILS
OF THE NEGOTIATION.

2. I TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY. I BELIEVE THE TIME HAS COME,
NOT FOR RETALIATION BUT, RATHER, FOR MAKING OUR POSTURE

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AMPLY CLEAR -- TO THE AUDIENCE IN THE UNITED STATES AS WELL
AS THE AUDIENCE IN THE HEMISPHERE AND IN PANAMA.

3. ACCORDINGLY I HAVE CONCURRED IN THE TEXT QUOTED BELOW FOR THE SECRETARY'S SUGGESTED RESPONSE TO ANY QUERY ON THE PANAMA MATTER FROM THE MEDIA IN LOS ANGELES.

4. WE APPRECIATE THAT SUCH A RESPONSE BY THE SECRETARY WOULD CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR TORRIJOS, BECAUSE THE SECRETARY WOULD BE CONTRADICTING WHAT TORRIJOS'S PEOPLE HAVE BEEN LEAKING AND SAYING OFFICIALLY TO THE MEDIA. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES AND AT THIS JUNCTURE I HAVE NO OVERRIDING MISGIVINGS ABOUT THAT.

5. BEGIN QUOTE. I REGRET THAT THE DETAILS OF THIS NEGOTIATION ARE BEING REVEALED -- NOT ONLY THROUGH INFORMATION COLLECTED INFORMALLY BY THE MEDIA, BUT ALSO BY OFFICIAL PANAMANIAN SOURCES.

6. NO NEGOTIATION WHICH IS HARRASSED EVERY STEP OF THE WAY BY THE REVELATION OF THE DETAILS OF THE DELICATE, COMPLEX BARGAINING PROCESS CAN SUCCEED...IN MY EXPERIENCE, AT LEAST.

7. TO CLARIFY: THE UNITED STATES AND PANAMA HAVE YET TO REACH FINAL AGREEMENTS ON THE MAJOR NEGOTIATING ISSUES:

- THE TWO TEAMS ARE BARGAINING;
- THE BARGAINING PROCESS HAS A LONG WAY TO GO;
- THE UNITED STATES HOPES IT WILL BE SUCCESSFUL;
- SUCCESS WILL COME WITH A FINE BALANCING OF THE INTERESTS OF BOTH - I REPEAT - BOTH PARTIES. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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